CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for enabling a computer that processes data formatted in a first format to read a data unit that is formatted in a second format from a storage subsystem that is capable of storing data in either said first format or said second format, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) dispatching, from said computer to said storage subsystem, a command for said storage subsystem to report a data length of said data unit;

(b) sending, from said storage subsystem to said computer, a value of said data length that enables said computer to determine whether said data unit is in said first format or in said second format and prepare for receipt of said data unit having said data length;

(c) dispatching, from said computer to said storage subsystem, a command for said storage subsystem to forward said data unit to said computer; and

(d) sending said data unit from said storage subsystem to said computer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first format is a count, key and data (CKD) format and said second

format is a small computer standard interface (SCSI) format.

3. The method of claim 1,

wherein said storage subsystem includes a logical cylinder 0 that is reserved for administrative data that is used by said computer, and

wherein said method further comprises, before step (a), bypassing said cylinder 0 when writing data in said second format to said storage subsystem.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said administrative data is a volume label and a volume table of contents in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) storage protocol.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before step (d), the step of appending, by said storage subsystem, a header to said data unit to enable said computer to process said data unit when said data unit is in said second format.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said header includes a home address, a record 0, and a count field in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) storage protocol.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer backs up said data unit in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) backup procedure.

8. A system in which a computer that processes data formatted in a first format is enabled to read data formatted in a second format from a storage subsystem that is capable of storing data in either said first format or said second format, comprising:

a computer including:

means for dispatching a command for said storage subsystem to report a data length of said data unit;

means for determining whether said data unit is in said first format or said second format based on said data length;

means for receiving said data unit, in said first format or said second format, having said data length,

means for dispatching a command for said storage subsystem to forward said data unit to said computer; and

a storage subsystem including:

means for sending a value of said data length to said computer; and

means for sending said data unit to said computer.

9.   The system of claim 8, wherein said first format is a count, key and data (CKD) format and said second format is a small computer standard interface (SCSI) format.

10.   The system of claim 8,

wherein said storage subsystem includes a logical cylinder 0 that is reserved for administrative data that is used by said computer, and

wherein said storage subsystem bypasses said cylinder 0 when writing data in said second format to said storage subsystem.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein said administrative data is a volume label and a volume table of contents in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) storage protocol.

12.   The system of claim 8, wherein said storage subsystem appends a header to said data unit to enable said computer to process said data unit when said data unit is in said second format.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein said computer backs up said data unit in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) backup procedure.

14. A storage media that includes instructions for controlling a system in which a computer that processes data formatted in a first format is enabled to read a data unit that is formatted in a second format from a storage subsystem that is capable of storing data in either said first format or said second format, said storage media comprising:

(a) means for controlling said computer to dispatch to said storage subsystem a command for said storage subsystem to report a data length of said data unit;

(b) means for controlling said storage subsystem to send to said computer a value of said data length that enables said computer to determine whether said data unit is in said first format or in said second format and prepare for receipt of said data unit, in said first format or said second format, having said data length;

(c) means for controlling said computer to dispatch to said storage subsystem a command for said storage subsystem to forward said data unit to said computer; and

(d) means for controlling said storage subsystem to send said data unit to said computer.

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15. The storage media of claim 14, wherein said first format is a count, key and data (CKD) format and said second format is a small computer standard interface (SCSI) format.

16. The storage media of claim 14,

wherein said storage subsystem includes a logical cylinder 0 that is reserved for administrative data that is used by said computer, and

wherein said storage media further comprises means for controlling said storage subsystem to bypass said cylinder 0 when writing data in said second format to said storage subsystem.

17. The storage media of claim 16, wherein said administrative data is a volume label and a volume table of contents in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) storage protocol.

18. The storage media of claim 14, further comprising means for controlling said storage subsystem to append a header to said data unit to enable said computer to process said data unit when said data unit is in said second format.

19. The storage media of claim 18, wherein said header includes a home address, a record 0, and a count field

in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) storage protocol.

20. The storage media of claim 14, wherein said computer backs up said data unit in accordance with a multiple virtual storage (MVS) backup procedure.